

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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TAGS: TECH, PARM, ENRG, JA, US

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON NUCLEAR TALKS

1. FOLLOWING IS THE COMPLETE TEXT OF A MAY 18, PAGE 3 NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE: BEGIN QUOTE. THE CHAIRMAN OF JAPAN'S ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION SUGGESTED HERE TODAY THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS WERE DEALING WITH JAPAN IN BAD FAITH IN THE DISPUTE OVER NUCLEAR REPROCESSING. THE CONTROVERSY, HE SAID, THREATENS TO DISRUPT JAPANESE-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP.

2. SOSUKE UNO, WHO ALSO HEADS THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY AND IS A CABINET MEMBER, MADE HIS COMMENTS IN AN INTERVIEW IN HIS OFFICE. FOR A RANKING JAPANESE OFFICIAL TO SPEAK SO BLUNTLY ON ANY CONTENTIOUS ISSUE BETWEEN JAPAN AND ITS MAJOR ALLY IS UNUSUAL AND A MEASURE OF THE UNHAPPINESS OVER AMERICAN OPPOSITION TO JAPAN'S PLAN TO BEGIN OPERATION OF A REPROCESSING PLANT FOR SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL NEXT JULY.

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3. THE UNITED STATES EXERCISES AN EFFECTIVE VETO POWER OVER THE PROJECT, IN WHICH JAPAN, ACCORDING TO MR. UNO, HAS INVESTED 170 MILLION DOLLARS SO FAR, BECAUSE THE SPENT FUEL TO BE REPROCESSED WAS ENRICHED IN THE UNITED STATES. UNDER AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BOTH MUST JOINTLY DETERMINE WHETHER REPROCESSING WOULD BE DONE UNDER CONDITIONS THAT ASSURE THAT THE PLUTONIUM THUS PRODUCED CAN

BE SAFEGUARDED AGAINST DIVERSION TO MILITARY USE.

4. IN LINE WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY OF LIMITING THE NUMBER OF NATIONS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING PLUTONIUM BY REPROCESSING, THE UNITED STATES HAS WITHHELD APPROVAL. TWO WEEKS OF HIGH-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON LAST MONTH ENDED IN DEADLOCK AND ARE TO BE RESUMED SOON, WITH NO INDICATION THAT EITHER SIDE HAS SOFTENED ITS POSITION.

5. CARTER'S WORDS CITED: MR. UNO SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER, WITH WHOM PRIME MINISTER TAKEO FUKUDA DISCUSSED THE ISSUE BOTH DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST MARCH AND AGAIN AT THE LONDON SUMMIT MEETING EARLIER THIS MONTH, HAS STOOD BY A COMMENT HE MADE AT A NEWS CONFERENCE ON APRIL 7. THE PRESIDENT SAID THEN THAT WEST GERMANY, JAPAN AND OTHER NATIONS HAD "A PERFECT RIGHT TO GO AHEAD AND CONTINUE WITH THEIR OWN REPROCESSING EFFORTS."

6. MR. UNO SAID MR. FUKUDA HAD TOLD HIM THAT MR. CARTER HAD NOT DRAWN BACK FROM THIS STATEMENT WHEN THEY DISCUSSED IT IN LONDON AND HAD PROMISED HIM TO INSTRUCT AMERICAN OFFICIALS DEALING WITH JAPAN ACCORDINGLY. THE ATOMIC ENERGY CHIEF SAID:

"AT THE WORKING LEVEL, THE AMERICAN SIDE HAD MADE UNREASONABLE REQUESTS AND HARASSED US. AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL THERE IS UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MR. FUKUDA AND MR. CARTER. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT THERE."

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7. ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT THE AMERICAN NEGOTIATORS, LED BY JOSEPH S. NYE, DEPUTY TO THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HAD BEEN NEGOTIATING IN GOOD FAITH, MR. UNO SAID: "I DON'T THINK SO. I HAVE A FEELING THAT CRACKS ARE ABOUT TO APPEAR IN OUR FRIENDLY RELATIONS."

8. NO DIVERGENCE, U.S. SAYS: IN THE AMERICAN VIEW, THERE IS NO DIVERGENCE BETWEEN MR. CARTER AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT NEGOTIATORS. INFORMED SOURCES SUGGEST THAT MR. CARTER MAY HAVE MADE THE AMERICAN OFFICIALS' TASK MORE DIFFICULT BY HIS NEWS CONFERENCE STATEMENT, WHICH MR. NYE HAD TO AMPLIFY FOR THE JAPANESE BY ADDING THAT JAPAN'S "PERFECT RIGHT" TO REPROCESS WAS LIMITED BY THE EXISTENCE OF THE AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR AN AMERICAN VETO.

9. MR. UNO INDICATED THAT HE BELIEVED THE UNITED STATES WAS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A VETO RIGHT LIMITED TO A TECHNICAL QUESTION--"SAFEGUARDABILITY" OF THE PLUTONIUM, IN THE

JARGON OF THE NUCLEAR NEGOTIATORS--TO FURTHER MR. CARTER'S ANTIPROLIFERATION POLICY. THE JAPANESE OFFICIAL SAID THAT NEITHER JAPANESE NOR AMERICAN EXPERTS HAD ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THE "SAFEGUARDABILITY" OR OF THE REPROCESSING PLANT, WHICH IS IN TOKAI MURA, ON THE COAST NORTHEAST OF TOKYO.

10. MR. UNO SAID FURTHERMORE THAT ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT CONSULTED ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PLANT, WHICH USES FRENCH TECHNOLOGY, "OUR BELIEF IN THE NECESSITY OF THE PLUTONIUM CYCLE IS BASED ON AMERICAN TEACHING."

11. "IN THE LAST 20 YEARS JAPAN HAS DEVELOPED ITS NUCLEAR POLICY IN FRIENDSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES," MR. UNO SAID. "THE PROBLEM IS NOW THE AMERICANS START WITH THE CONCEPTION THAT THE MANUFACTURE OF PLUTONIUM ITSELF IS AN EVIL."

12. MR. UNO SAID THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED UNCLASSIFIED

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NUCLEAR ENERGY IS A "MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH FOR JAPAN." HE BASED THIS ON JAPAN'S POVERTY IN ALMOST ALL NATURAL RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY SOURCES OF ENERGY. END QUOTE.

13. ARTICLE BY HENRY KAMM WAS UNDER TITLE "TOKYO AIDE HINTS BAD FAITH BY U.S. IN NUCLEAR TALKS." CHRISTOPHER

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